

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michaluk) Examiner: Lois L. Zheng
)
Application Number: 10/042,549) Group Art Unit: 1742
)
Filed: January 9, 2002) Confirmation No.: 5470
)
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01))

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 19, 2008

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-SB-08. Pursuant to the current United States Patent and Trademark Office rules, no copies of U.S. Patents/Patent Application Publications are provided.

This Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after expiration of the three-month period following filing of the above-captioned application but before any Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. *See* 37 CFR 1.104(a) and

Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549

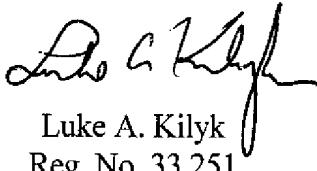
1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-SB-08 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to Deposit Account No. 03-0060.

Respectfully submitted,



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